

# Village of Paw Paw

Larry Nielsen, Village Manager  
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September 25, 2012

Honorable Senators,

I regret I am unable to attend the hearing today. But this is an important issue. We wholeheartedly support the bill offered by Senator Schuitmaker. Here's why:

One of our police officers was arrested in March 2010 during a joint investigation into the illegal possession of steroids by police officers in the Kalamazoo and Van Buren County areas. This investigation was a joint effort between KVET (Kalamazoo Valley Narcotics Enforcement Team) and WEMET (West Michigan Enforcement Team.)

Our officer was stopped by the investigating officers while driving a Village of Paw Paw Police Vehicle, and while in uniform and on duty. 96 illegal anabolic steroid pills were found on the floor of the patrol vehicle. The Village terminated his employment.

On March 4, 2011, our former officer was found guilty under MCL 333.74032B-A for knowingly possessing a controlled substance. However, the court granted this former officer relief under section 7411. Apparently this allows his record to be cleared if he meets the terms and conditions of his sentencing guidelines. Once this was granted, the former officer believed he could be reinstated with our department if he met the conditions of his 74-11 sentence.

We thought this would be terrible. So, the officer's conduct and conviction were reported to the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES.) Under normal circumstances, based on the conviction of a serious crime, he would have his license revoked and never again be allowed to work as licensed police officer in Michigan. However, we were informed MCOLES believed it could not revoke his license because of the 74-11 sentence. They too were concerned that should the officer meet his 74-11 obligations the matter is completed and he would become eligible for employment again as a police officer in the State of Michigan.

Any determination that our former officer or any other police officer in the state of Michigan convicted of a crime and offered a 74-11 sentence would be wrong. No individual with our officer's criminal background should ever be allowed to work again as a police officer in the State of Michigan. The failure to revoke his license would be a dereliction of responsibilities to the people of this state. We have no problem allowing him to move on with

his life with the benefit of having his criminal record expunged if that is what 74-11 is designed to provide; however, that should not include the opportunity to work again as a police officer.

We would appreciate any assistance you could provide in assuring the taxpayers of the Village of Paw Paw and the State of Michigan that a person convicted of the possession of illegal drugs while on duty will never again wear a Paw Paw police officer uniform or any law enforcement uniform in the State of Michigan.

Thank you for your hard work on our behalf. We encourage you to support Senator Schuitmaker's bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry Nielsen".

Larry Nielsen, Manager  
Village of Paw Paw